

REPRESENTATIVE

**FRED JARRETT**

**41ST DISTRICT**



## 2001 SESSION REPORT AND SURVEY

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**TDD (HEARING IMPAIRED):**

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**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

TRANSPORTATION

HIGHER EDUCATION,

VICE-CHAIR

EDUCATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AND HOUSING

**LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**

**ON THE INTERNET:**

HTTP://

WWW.LEG.WA.GOV



Dear Neighbors:

I spent a great deal of time the last few months meeting with constituents from all over the 41st District. I learned a lot from your input, and appreciate the time you took to share your opinions. The feedback I received will help me to serve you more effectively.

As I begin my first term in the House of Representatives, I am humbled by the enormous challenges facing the Legislature. This session preview is an overview of some of the issues we will be addressing during the 2001 session.

Also included in this newsletter is a questionnaire on issues relating to the state's operating and transportation budgets. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey to me.

Remember, government works best when citizens are involved. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Fred Jarrett  
State Representative  
41<sup>st</sup> District



## REP. FRED JARRETT • 41ST DISTRICT

### ADDRESSING OUR TRANSPORTATION CRISIS

Nothing is more important to eastside residents than solving our transportation problems. This is an issue that affects every aspect of our lives. Whether transporting products or carpooling kids, citizens deserve a transportation system they can count on.

As a freshman legislator, it is quite an honor to be appointed to the House Transportation Committee. As a member of the committee, I will provide 41<sup>st</sup> District constituents another voice when state transportation policy and the transportation budget are developed.

I believe we must work toward long-term solutions to our transportation crisis. The completion of the Blue Ribbon Commission's report, the Governor's commitment to action this session and the importance placed on transportation by the legislature makes me more optimistic than ever that necessary improvements will occur.

Let me know what you think about the Blue Ribbon Commission's proposals. I want you to help me influence the results. Because that's what we need: Results.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is an important facet of our area. Bellevue Community College, Lake Washington Technical College, and Renton Technical College provide opportunity for Eastside residents and businesses. Each has specific needs the Legislature must address.

Likewise, the University of Washington profoundly impacts the Eastside. Many of us, and our children have attended or will attend the UW. In addition, a number of eastside residents are UW staff members. As vice-chair of the Higher Education Committee I intend to focus on assuring the state's commitment to Higher Education.



### ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT

The public has the right to expect state agencies to deliver value for our tax dollars. Performance audits measure what government delivers, as opposed to just what has been spent. I support performance audits as a tool to assure taxpayers get value for tax dollars, and the state agencies know what they are accountable for.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The House Local Government and Housing Committee considers issues relating to counties, cities and special districts. It also considers issues relating to the Growth Management Act and other land use legislation. As a member of this committee I

bring sixteen years of local government experience. During the years I served on the Mercer Island City Council, I saw the impact state policies have on local communities. I will draw upon this experience to ensure cities are provided the tools they need to improve services to residents.

**Please take a few minutes to complete and return the following survey. Your input will help me understand your priorities.**

### 41<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT SURVEY:

**One of the greatest challenges before the Legislature this session will be adopting the state's operating and transportation budgets.**

*The state's voter-approved spending limit (Initiative 601) should be:*

- (A) Maintained as is
- (B) Amended to reflect the increased spending mandated by recent voter approved initiatives
- (C) Amended to allow spending to increase at a higher rate, for example reflecting school age population or other measures of growth

Governor Locke has proposed that the state spending limit created by Initiative 601 should be amended to exclude salary increases for school employees, mandated by Initiative 732, approved by voters last year. Do you agree or disagree with that proposal?

(A) Agree      (B) Disagree

Governor Locke states that balancing the budget while providing new funding to meet the state's budget needs will require reductions in existing state programs and services. In what areas would you support spending cuts to help balance the budget? (Rank by order of priority.)

- ( ) Public Schools      ( ) Social Services  
( ) Health Care      ( ) Higher Education  
( ) Natural Resources      ( ) Other (Please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation recently identified a need for \$50 billion in transportation improvements in the state over the next 20 years. The Commission found that "Overall, there is an insufficient level of funding for the roadway system at the state, county and city levels as well as for alternative modes such as transit, passenger and freight rail, and trip reduction programs." What, if any, measures to raise additional revenue for transportation would you favor?

- ( ) Gas tax increase  
( ) Indexing the gas tax to inflation  
( ) Sales tax on gas  
( ) Weight-based user fees, applied to all private vehicles  
( ) Surcharge on transportation-related goods, such as new and used vehicles, parts and accessories  
( ) A statewide sales tax increase  
( ) Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( ) No tax increase. Transportation improvements should be made with existing revenue.

Please specify which of the following recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation you support.

- \_\_\_\_ Adopt transportation benchmarks as a cornerstone of government accountability at the state, city, county, and transit district levels  
\_\_\_\_ Link transportation funding with progress efficiencies  
\_\_\_\_ Establish a single point of accountability at the state level by granting the Governor oversight of the Washington State Department of Transportation and grant the Washington Transportation Commission new authority as the Transportation Accountability Commission (TAC) that would monitor and report the performance of statewide transportation systems  
\_\_\_\_ Direct a thorough and independent performance review of the Washington State Department of Transportation administrative practices and staffing levels  
\_\_\_\_ Provide local governments and transportation agencies funding, and the authority to implement efficiencies and raise regional revenues to meet the new benchmarks  
\_\_\_\_ Preserve the transportation system by making maintenance, preservation and safety the top funding priorities  
\_\_\_\_ Allow regions to create new entities or select existing entities to plan, manage, fund and be accountable for regional transportation projects  
\_\_\_\_ Use the private sector to deliver projects and transportation services  
\_\_\_\_ Develop new standards to streamline permitting for transportation projects  
\_\_\_\_ Guarantee each region a minimum return of 85% of state transportation taxes generated in that region, and allocate remaining funds to a statewide equalization fund  
\_\_\_\_ Transfer 90 percent of the ferry system's operating cost to those who use it  
\_\_\_\_ Begin action now to improve the transportation system

#### WHAT OTHER ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

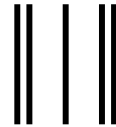
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Include your email address if you are interested in receiving regular legislative updates \_\_\_\_\_

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**Rep. Fred Jarrett**

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

# 41<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT DAY IN OLYMPIA

Spend a day touring the Capitol campus and visiting with your state lawmakers. Please join us on March 6<sup>th</sup>, for 41<sup>st</sup> District Day in Olympia. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Building rotunda. Guides will lead 41<sup>st</sup> District visitors on a tour of the Capitol Campus. After the tour you will have the opportunity to ask questions of your legislators during a brown bag lunch (please bring your own lunch and we'll provide the coffee and soft drinks.) The day will conclude around 2:30 p.m.

Please RSVP your attendance to Representative Jarrett's office at (360) 786-7894.



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